

March 13, 1995

LB 337

LR 6

constitutional amendment should be, all of a sudden they go out, pay petitioners or volunteers, they get the signatures required, it gets on the ballot, how can we make sure that (a) there's a good discussion on the amendment or on the proposed amendment to the Constitution, how can we make sure that the wording is, in fact, proper, that there aren't errors in the wording and this bill takes care of a lot of my concerns on the process and I think it's a very good bill. Along that line I certainly agree with Senator Witek, that the committee has worked very, very hard and we do have a good committee and the word "balanced" in quotations as far as good discussion, the discussions of the committee ranges the spectrum, from very conservative to very liberal, and I think that's a good portion of that and the committee amendments were well thought out and worked very, very tirelessly on. However, I do support the Schimek amendment and the reason I do so at this point is because of 6CA. LR 6CA puts in the bifurcated system that we have and I think it's even more important at this point that we have a real contrast. When the committee made the amendment, it was basically a cost-saving amendment that we had on where the red would be much more cost prohibitive. It wasn't necessarily required because you could have contrasting colors. Now that you have the bifurcated system where you clearly have paid petitioners that need to be identified versus volunteer petitioners, I think it's probably more important that we go back to the way that it originally was and that's why I support the first part of the Schimek amendment. The second part of the Schimek amendment I'm not so excited about, that is that we go back and let the Secretary of State be the final judge. I've heard of lots of things. I've heard that the Secretary of State might put out a handbook saying to county clerks, well, now if you have the word William, these would be acceptable, Bob, Willie, Bobette, I mean I don't know what all it would be and if we get into that type of scenario I think it gets almost ridiculous as to what the Secretary of State feels is acceptable versus what in reality is an actual acceptability on names in the area. So I'm not so excited about that. I actually would like to divide the question but the way it is written it's not that easily done so I'll tentatively support the Schimek amendments, well, not tentatively, I will support the Schimek amendment, and if I feel we need to go back and look at the Secretary of State portion, I'll do that at a later time, but I urge the body's support of this particular amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator